

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An interlocking animal toy system, comprising:

a first toy and a second toy each having:

a body, wherein the body comprises a ~~food~~ chamber and at least one side hole,
and

a top hole, wherein the top hole comprises a flared rim,

wherein the diameter of the flared rim of the top hole at a first point is greater than the diameter of the top hole at a second point, wherein the second point is more proximal to the chamber than the first point; and

wherein the at least one side hole of one toy is configured to receive the flared rim of the top hole of the other toy, such that when the flared rim of one toy is inserted into the side hole of the other toy, the first toy and the second toy are interlocked; and

wherein the chamber is configured to hold food for the animal, and wherein the top hole of the second toy and the at least one side hole of the first toy are configured to dispense the food when the first toy and the second toy are interlocked

~~a second toy; and~~

~~a means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy.~~

2-41. CANCELLED

42. (NEW) The toy system of claim 1, wherein the diameter of the at least one side hole is smaller than the diameter of the flared rim at the first point.

43. (NEW) The toy system of claim 1, wherein the at least one side hole comprises a slotted opening having retention flaps.

44. (NEW) The toy system of claim 43, wherein the retention flaps are deformable.

45. (NEW) The toy system of claim 1, wherein either the first toy or the second toy further comprises a bottom hole directly opposite the top hole on the body.

46. (NEW) The toy system of claim 1, wherein the flared rim and the body are separated by a passageway.

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47. (NEW) The toy system of claim 1, either the first toy or the second toy further comprises a nozzle leading from the chamber to the top hole.

48. (NEW) The toy system of claim 46, wherein the passageway of the first toy is configured to provide passage for the food in the chamber of the first toy to enter the chamber of the second toy when the flared rim of the first toy is inserted into the side hole of the second toy.

49. (NEW) The toy system of claim 46, wherein the passageway of the second toy is configured to dispense the food in the chamber of the second toy when the flared rim of the first toy is inserted into the side hole of the second toy.

50. (NEW) The toy system of claim 1, wherein the interlocked first and second toys are configured to remain connected until the toys are disconnected by pulling the second toy away from the first toy to remove the flared rim of the first toy from the side hole of the second toy.

51. (NEW) The toy system of claim 1, wherein the first toy or the second toy comprises more than one side hole.